

## SPECIFICATION

TITLE: NECTARINE TREE NAMED 'SPRING PEARL'

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BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION: *Prunus persica*.

VARIETY DENOMINATION: 'SPRING PEARL'

## BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

In a continuing effort to improve the quality of shipping fruits, I, the inventor, typically hybridize a large number of peach, nectarine, plum, apricot, and cherry seedlings each year. I also grow a lesser number of open pollinated seeds of each of these fruits, usually to capture recessive traits. The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of nectarine tree, which has been denominated varietyally as 'SPRING PEARL'. During the spring and summer of 1997 I gathered fruit from several different unnamed seedlings in my experimental orchard located near Le Grand, California, in Merced County (San Joaquin Valley). One particular group of nectarines were white in flesh color, clingstone in type, and sub-acidic in flavor, and were thus designated as "WNC (OP)". The seeds from this fruit were removed, cracked, stratified, germinated and grown as seedlings on their own root in my greenhouse, and upon reaching dormancy transplanted to a cultivated area in the experimental orchard described above. During the fruit evaluation season of 2000 I selected several nectarines that exhibited desirable qualities,

1 as the present variety was selected as a single tree from the group of  
2 "WNC (OP)" described above. Subsequent to origination of the present  
3 variety of nectarine tree, I asexually reproduced it by budding and  
4 grafting in the experimental orchard described above, and such  
5 reproduction of plant and fruit characteristics were true to the original  
6 plant in all respects. The reproduction of the variety included the use  
7 of 'Nemaguard' rootstock (unpatented) upon which the present variety was  
8 compatible and true to type.

9 The present variety is most similar to 'June Pearl' (United  
10 States Plant Patent Number 9,360) nectarine, by producing nectarines that  
11 are very firm in texture, sub-acidic and sweet in flavor, clingstone in  
12 type, and nearly full red in skin color, but is distinguished therefrom  
13 by producing fruit that is more globose in shape, has virtually no  
14 protruding tips at the apex, is larger in size, and matures about five  
15 days later.

#### 16 SUMMARY OF VARIETY

17 In summary, the present variety is characterized by a medium  
18 size, vigorous, hardy, self-fertile, productive and regular bearing tree.  
19 The fruit matures under the ecological conditions described approximately  
20 the third week in June, with first picking on June 21, 2003. The fruit  
21 is uniformly large in size, excellent in flavor, globose in shape,  
22 clingstone in type, very firm in texture, white in flesh color, and red  
23 in skin color. The variety was developed as an open pollinated seedling  
24 from an unnamed white flesh nectarine.

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DRAWING

The accompanying photograph exhibits four whole fruits positioned to display the characteristics of the skin color and form, one fruit divided transversely to the suture plane to reveal the flesh and stone, and typical leaves.

POMOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Referring now more specifically to the pomological characteristics of this new and distinct variety of nectarine tree, the following has been observed under the ecological conditions prevailing near Le Grand, Merced County (San Joaquin Valley), California, and was developed at the state of firm ripe on June 25, 2003, on the original tree during its sixth growing season. All major color code designations are by reference to the Inter-Society Color Council, National Bureau of Standards. Common color names are also used occasionally.

Tree

Size: Medium, reaching a height of 11' [3.35 m.] and a spread of 10' [3.05 m.] after six growing seasons utilizing typical dormant pruning.

Vigor: Vigorous, responding typically to irrigation and fertilization. The variety grows about 3' [0.91 m.] of surplus top-growth during the spring and summer. The plant should be grown on a standard commercial rootstock for production purposes.

Growth: Spreading and dense.

Form: Vase formed.

Hardiness: Hardy with respect to central California winters.

1    Heat Tolerance: Observed to perform adequately in typical central  
2                                   California climatic conditions, which typically include  
3                                   extended periods of heat.

4    Drought Tolerance: Variety is developed for commercial orchards and  
5                                   requires regular irrigation.

6    Production: Productive, thinning necessary.

7    Fertility: Self-fertile.

8    Bearing: Regular bearer with no alternate bearing yet observed.

9    Trunk:

10                    Size.- Medium, with a maximum diameter of 3 3/4" [95 mm.]  
11                                   after the sixth growing season.

12                    Texture.- Somewhat shaggy.

13                    Bark Color.- A two-tone variegation of Dark grayish yellowish  
14                                   brown [81. d.gy.yBr] and Dark brown [59. d.Br].

15                    Lenticels.- Approximate Number Per Square Inch: 10.  
16                                   Color: Brownish orange [54. brO].

17                    Typical Size: 1/8" to 7/16" [3.2 - 11.1 mm.].

18    Branches: Size.- Diameter of limb is 1 1/2" [38 mm.] measured 12"  
19                                   above the secondary fork, typical of *Prunus persica*,  
20                                   and dependent upon cultural practices and climatic  
21                                   conditions.

22                    Texture.- Smooth on 1st year wood, increasing roughness  
23                                   with age.

24                    Color.- 1st Year Wood Topside: Moderate red [15. m.R].  
25                                   1st Year Wood Underside: Brilliant yellow green

1 [116. brill.YG].  
2 Older Wood: Deep yellowish brown [75. deep yBr].  
3 *Lenticels.*- Approximate Number Per Square Inch: 100.  
4 Color: Moderate orange [53. m.O].  
5 Typical size: 1/32" to 1/8" [0.8 - 3.2 mm.].  
6 Leaves: *Size.*- Medium.  
7 Average Length: 5 5/8" [143 mm.].  
8 Average width: 1 1/2" [38 mm.].  
9 *Arrangement.*- Alternate.  
10 *Thickness.*- Medium.  
11 *Form.*- Elliptical.  
12 *Apex.*- Acuminate.  
13 *Base.*- Acute, with an average base angle of 80 degrees.  
14 *Surface.*- Smooth.  
15 *Color.*- Dorsal Surface: Moderate olive green [125. m.OlG].  
16 Ventral Surface: Moderate yellow green [120. m.YG].  
17 *Margin.*- Finely serrate.  
18 *Venation.*- Pinnately net veined.  
19 *Petiole.*- Average Length: 1/2" [12.7 mm.].  
20 Average Thickness: 1/16" [1.6 mm.].  
21 Color: Brilliant yellow green [116. brill.YG].  
22 *Stipules.*- Number: 2 per leaf, up to 6 per growing tip.  
23 Average Length: 7/16" [11.1 mm.].  
24 Color: Strong yellow green [117. s.YG] when young, becoming  
25 light reddish brown [42. l.rBr] with age.

1                   *Glands*.- Average number: 4.

2                               Position: Mostly alternate, first two on petiole, rest

3   on base of blade.

4                               Size: Medium.

5                               Form: Reniform.

6                               Color: Brilliant yellow green [116. brill.YG] when

7   young, acquiring a Moderate reddish orange

8   [37. m.rO] center with age.

9                   *Leaf Buds*.- Conic.

10   Flower Buds:

11                   *Hardiness*.- Hardy, with respect to central California winters.

12                   *Diameter*.- Typically 9/16" [14.3 mm.] 1 day before bloom.

13                   *Length*.- Typically 15/16" [23.8 mm.] 1 day before bloom.

14                   *Form*.- Not appressed.

15                   *Surface*.- Pubescent.

16                   *Color*.- Strong purplish red [255. s.pR] when tip is first

17   exposed, Light purplish pink [249. l.pPk] just before

18   bloom.

19   Flowers: Perfect, complete, perigynous, usually a single pistil,

20                               typically thirty or more stamens, five sepals and petal

21                               locations alternately positioned.

22                   *Type*.- Showy, large.

23                   *Average Flower Diameter*.- 1 13/16" [46.0 mm.].

24                   *Number of Petals*.- Mostly five, but about ten percent are

25   double blossoms and many possess extra

1 smaller petals.

2 *Petal Shape.*- Circular.

3 *Petal Margin.*- Somewhat wavy.

4 *Average Petal Diameter.*- 3/4" [19.1 mm.].

5 *Average Petal Length.*- 13/16" [20.6 mm.].

6 *Petal Apex.*- Rounded with a small notch located at the top

7 center of the margin on many.

8 *Petal Base.*- Rounded.

9 *Petal Color.*- Light purplish pink [249. l.pPk].

10 *Anther Color.*- Dark red [16. d.R] over a Brilliant orange

11 yellow [67. brill.OY] center.

12 *Stigma Color.*- Light greenish yellow [101. l.gY].

13 *Sepal Color.*- Dark purplish red [259. d.pR].

14 *Sepal Length.*- 1/4" [6.4 mm.].

15 *Sepal Width.*- 11/64" [4.4 mm.].

16 *Average Pistil Length.*- 3/4" [19.1 mm.].

17 *Average Stamen Length.*- 5/8" [15.9 mm.].

18 *Fragrance.*- Moderate when nectar is present.

19 *Blooming Period.*- Medium compared with other varieties.

20 *Onset of Bloom.*- One percent on March 3, 2003.

21 *Date of Full Bloom.*- March 10, 2003.

22 *Duration of Bloom.*- One to two weeks, dependent on ambient

23 temperature.

24 *Number per cluster.*- 1 to 3 with single flowers most common.

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1 FRUIT

2 Maturity When Described: Firm ripe, June 25, 2003.

3 Date of First Picking: June 21, 2003.

4 Date of Last Picking: June 30, 2003.

5 Size: Uniform, large.

6 *Average Diameter Axially.- 2 9/16" [65.1 mm.].*

7 *Average Diameter Across Suture Plane.- 2 5/8" [66.7 mm.].*

8 *Typical Weight.- 6.8 ounces [193 grams].*

9 Form: Uniform, globose.

10 *Longitudinal Section Form.- Circular.*

11 *Transverse Section Through Diameter.- Circular.*

12 Suture: A visible groove extending from the base well beyond the apex,  
13 sharp near the base, shallow along the side, and deep and  
14 somewhat sharp toward the apex.

15 Ventral Surface: Rounded, lipped throughout on both sides.

16 Lips: Somewhat unequal.

17 Cavity: Flaring, elongated in the suture plane, suture showing on one  
18 side, and Greenish white [153. gWhite] stem markings typical.

19 *Depth.- 7/16" [11.1 mm.].*

20 *Breadth.- 7/8" [22.2 mm.].*

21 Base: Truncate.

22 Apex: Rounded and somewhat emarginate if viewed along the suture.

23 Pistil Point: Some oblique and some apical, negligible in length,  
24 depressed within the suture.

25 Stem: Medium.



1           *Average Length.-* 3/8" [9.5 mm.].  
2           *Average Width.-* 3/16" [4.8 mm.].  
3    Skin:  
4           *Thickness.-* Medium.  
5           *Surface.-* Smooth.  
6           *Tenacity.-* Tenacious to flesh.  
7           *Astringency.-* Nonstringent.  
8           *Tendency to Crack.-* None observed in dry season.  
9           *Color.-* Very dark red [17. v.d.R] over a Moderate red [15. m.R]  
10                   background with a minor amount of Light yellowish brown  
11                   [76. l.yBr] freckling toward the apex and some very small  
12                   Light yellow green [119. l.YG] areas in the stem cavity  
13                   where sunlight deprived.  
14    Flesh: *Color.-* White [263. White] to Greenish white [153. gWhite] toward  
15                   the stone with occasional Moderate red [15. m.R] flecking  
16                   toward the skin when reaching past maturity.  
17           *Surface of Pit Cavity.-* Greenish white [153. gWhite] fibers  
18                   breaking when twisted from the stone.  
19           *Amygdalin.-* Scarce.  
20           *Juice.-* Abundant, rich.  
21           *Texture.-* Firm and very crisp.  
22           *Fibers.-* Abundant, fine.  
23           *Ripens.-* Slightly earlier toward the apex.  
24           *Flavor.-* Mildly sub-acidic and sweet, averaging 17 brix.  
25           *Aroma.-* Slight.



